ABSTRACT

Method and systems for early detection of potentially hazardous material associated with the collection of mail or other objects. In an embodiment of the method of this invention, image characteristics for an image of an item being examined are obtained. A predetermined profile is then retrieved from a profile database. The image characteristics for the image of the item are compared to the image characteristics present in the predetermined profile. If the image characteristics present in the predetermined profile substantially match the image characteristics for the image of the item, the item is identified for special processing. If the image characteristics present in the predetermined profile do not substantially match the image characteristics for the image of the item, another predetermined profile is retrieved and compared to the image characteristics for the image of the item. A system that implements the method of this invention includes a transport sub-system and a computing sub-system.